

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SINGAP 00329 221145Z

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ACTION EA-10

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PM-03 OES-03 SS-15 SP-02 FEAE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 H-01

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CU-02 /107 W

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R 220950Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1882

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 0329

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MY, SN

SUBJECT: FAREWELL CALL BY MALAYSIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER

1. DURING FAREWELL CALL ON AMBASSADOR, MALAYSIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER ABDULLAH BIN ALI REVIEWED RECENT VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER LEE AND FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM TO KUALA LUMPUR. FOLLOWING POINTS OF INTEREST EMERGED FROM HIS ACCOUNT:

(A) LEE TALKED FOR OVER TWO HOURS WITH RAZAK WITHOUT ANY ADVISERS BEING PRESENT, AND ABDULLAH UNABLE EVEN TO RELATE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED WITH EXCEPTION OF MALACCA STRAITS PROBLEM WHICH DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH.

(B) LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM AND HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER GHAZALI BIN SHAFIE CHARACTERIZED AS "FRANK-KEST" DISCUSSIONS EVER HELD IN RECENT YEARS BETWEEN TOP SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIAN LEADERS. DISCUSSIONS COVERED STRAITS OF MALACCA, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 SINGAP 00329 221145Z

ASEAN, INDOCHINA, STUDENT PROBLEMS, PRC RELATIONS AND WAYS OF

HANDLING BILATERAL PROBLEMS.

(C) RE STRAITS OF MALACCA, BOTH MINISTERS WERE IN AGREEMENT THT FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING SHOULD SET UP TRIPARTITE COMMISSION TO REJUVENATEAND SUPERVISE TRAFFIC IN THE STRAITS. GOM FULLY UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED SINGAPORE'S DESIRE NOT TO HALT OR RESTRICT FLOW OF SHIPPING IN THE STRAITS. GOS ALSO ACCEPTED GOM DEEP CONCERN OVER IMPACT OF POLLUTION ON ITS FISHING AND OTHER INTERESTS IN THE STRAITS. GOM FULLY PREPARED TO CONSULT WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND WITH RQK AND "WOULD

NOT PUSH ITS POSITION ON JURISDICTION TOO MUCH." HE FELT CONFIDENT SENSIBLE REGULATIONS AND TRIPARTITE COMMISSION COULD BE DEVELOPED WHICH WOULD HAVE IMCO'S BLESSING.

(D) RAJARATNAM REVIEWED HIS RECENT TRIP TO EASTERN EUROPE AND ADVISED GOM THAT EE COUNTRIES NOW TOOKMORE FAVORABLE VIEW OF ASEAN AND URGED THAT ASEAN CONSIDER CLOSER ECONOMIC LINKS WTH EASTERN EUROPE.

(E) GOM REVIEWED ITS RELATIONS WITH PRC WITH WHICH GOM WAS RELATIVELY SATISFIED. ABDULLAH ADMITTED THAT ISSUES ON WHICH GOM AND PRC DID NOT SEE EYE TO EYE WERE BEING IGNORED FOR THE TIME BEING. (ACCORDING TO BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION SOURCE, GOS RECEIVED INPRESSION FROM THESE TALKS THAT GOM WAS NOT VERY HAPPY WITH WAY RELATIONS WITH PRC WERE GOING AND CAME AWAY WITH FEELING THAT GOS DESIRE TO DELAY ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WAS FULLY JUSTIFIED.)

(F) ON BILATERAL RELATIONS ABDULLAH COMMENTED THAT GOS NOW SEEMED TO HAVE RECOVERED FULLY FROM THE TRAUMA OF SEPARATION AND SINCE VIRTUALLY ALL THE PREVIOUS SPECIAL LINKS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES HAD NOW BEEN BROKEN THERE WERE VERY FEW REMAINING BILATERAL PROBLEMS. CIVIL SERVANTS HAD LARGELY TAKEN CUE FROM RAZAK/LEE MEETING OF NOVEMBER, 1973 NOT TO ENGAGE IN ONE-UPMANSHIP. AT THAT TIME THERE HAD BEEN PROBLEMS WITH OFFICIALS IN JOHORE BAHRU OVER THE CAUSEWAY, BUT THESE HAD BEEN LARGELY STRAIGHTENED OUT IN SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS. AT KUALA LUMPUR TALKS THEY RECOGNIZED THAT VARIOUS ECONOMIC AND OTHER MOVES EACH GOVERNMENT MIGHT MAKE IN ITS OWN INTEREST COULD OCCASIONALLY HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE OTHER CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SINGAP 00329 221145Z

AND AGREED THAT IN SUCH CASES THEY WOULD "INFORM" EACH OTHER BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THESE MOVES.

(G) SOME ANNOYANCE HAD RESULTED OVER ITEMS IN PRESS OF BOTH COUNTRIES WHICH PLAYED UP CRIME AND OTHER SENSATIONAL EVENTS OF THE OTHER. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY TRUE OF UTUSAN MELAYU AND MALAYSIAN OFFICIALS HAD EXPLAINED THAT WHILE UMNO INFLUENCED UTUSAN MELAYU, IT DID NOT FULLY CONTROL IT. ABDULLAH FELT THAT THERE WAS NOW

GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THIS PROBLEM. HE INDICATED THERE
WAS NO DISCUSSION OF ANY BILATERAL MILITARY MATTERS.
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